

# This year marks Korean War's 50th anniversary

‘Forgotten war’ still in the memories of those who were there

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On June 25, 1950, Communist North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. Two days later President Harry S. Truman called upon American's military forces to deploy and protect South Korea's democratically elected government and the freedom of its people.

After three years of battle, the fighting came to an end July 27, 1953, following an armistice that allowed both governments to claim victory, but neither one to truly possess it. Unlike the veterans of World War II, America's Korean veterans were welcomed home with a fervor of victory.

During the war America's Marines,

sailors, soldiers and airmen fought bravely and honorably, as both sides suffered major casualties. More than 54,000 paid the ultimate price in the defense of freedom, another 92,000 suffered casualties, and 8,176 soldiers never returned home and are listed as missing in action.

The Korean War is often referred to as the forgotten war, but if you ask the service members who served during the Korean War, who faced some of the most difficult military climates in history, or the families of the more than 158,000 Americans who were killed, wounded, or remain missing in action in Korea if they forget, you would most definitely receive a resounding “No!”



On July 27, America somberly remembered the end of the Korean War. More than 100 of America's Korean War veterans returned to Korea to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the peace treaty. North Korean propaganda still claims outright victory, but with the recent tensions between America and North Korea, who won and who lost is no longer important.

***“In war, you win or lose, live or die - and the difference is an eyelash.”*** - Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Winning or losing and living or dying are expectable risks that America's service members take when their commander-in-chief calls upon



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**Marines man a machine gun post on the outskirts of a village in Korea. Marine casualties during the war numbered approximately 4,506.**

them to defend freedom, but whether or not your countrymen will remember your bravery and heroics 50 years later is not as certain.

The lessons of the Korean War, and more importantly, the men and women who died or were injured while those lessons were learned, should never be forgotten. It is the job of today's service members, who could possibly face the same dilemma, to ensure they are not.